

Mr. Bennett, who passed away May 27, 1995, is a true legend in Rowing in every sense of the word. During an era when club crews were as powerful as those at some of the big Universities, he dominated the field as North America's winningest Coach. His eight-oared crews won the U.S. National Championships in 1947, 1949, 1950, and 1951. Those same crews went on to win the Royal Canadian Henley Championships in 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1956.

Coach Bennett also led a four-oar team to a National Championship in 1956, and represented our Nation in the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Even more important than his will to win and impressive records was Coach Bennett's leadership, involvement, and motivation of countless young men who were fortunate enough to be part of his teams.

Born and raised in Buffalo, New York, Coach Bennett served as a Member of the Buffalo Police Department for Thirty-three years, and attained the rank of Lieutenant.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the West Side Rowing Club, the Bennett Family, and our entire Western New York community in remembrance of Coach Bennett's service. I close with a caption from the newly dedicated plaque, which best sums up his amazing contributions:

"As remarkable as his coaching record was, his moral influence on hundreds of young men, many of who were war veterans, was stronger. He motivated his charges to be winners in life as well as on the water."

God Bless that unending commitment and Mr. John B. Bennett.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
MILLBRAE POLICE OFFICER
DAVID JOHN CHETCUTI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest sorrow at the devastating loss last month of Officer David John Chetcuti of the Millbrae, California, Police Department. Officer Chetcuti, who was only 43 years old, was killed on April 25 while aiding another officer during an exchange of gunfire with a heavily armed man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our most sincere condolences to his wife Gail, his three sons—David, Jr., John, and Rickey—and their friends and family in Millbrae and throughout the Bay Area. All of us have been touched by Officer Chetcuti's generosity, service, duty and commitment to his community.

Last month's tragedy hangs even more heavily in our hearts this week as we commemorate National Police Week. President Clinton's words proclaiming this solemn occasion ring especially true in reflecting upon Officer Chetcuti: "This week a grateful Nation pauses to honor the more than half a million dedicated law enforcement officers across our country who put their lives on the line each day to protect us. These courageous and dedicated men and women daily wage the timeless battle for right over wrong, peace

over conflict, and the rule of law over anarchy. . . . We lean heavily on this thin blue line, and it never breaks."

Officer Chetcuti honored this truth every day of his life through his extraordinary commitment to protecting all of us. As Mike Parker, Chief of the Millbrae Police Department, so eloquently remarked, "We lost Officer David J. Chetcuti when he was doing what he loved and did best, helping others."

David John Chetcuti was born in San Francisco on March 5, 1955. He was the youngest of seven children born to John and Lily Chetcuti. Dave graduated from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, and later joined the Millbrae Police Department as a Reserve Police Officer in November, 1983. In April 1987, Dave was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. He returned to the Millbrae Police Department in December, 1987, shortly after graduating from Alameda County's 91st Basic Academy.

Throughout his distinguished eleven-year career, Officer Chetcuti consistently performed as an outstanding officer and leader in many different service capacities. In 1992, he was the first officer from the Millbrae Police Department to receive recognition for the highest number of drunk driving arrests during the "Avoid the 23" campaign. In 1995, he received the Department's Lifesaving Award for initiating CPR on a heart attack victim. Over the years, Officer Chetcuti received more than 33 written commendations and was named in countless news stories reporting arrests, investigations, and outstanding achievements.

Mr. Speaker, 23 police officers have died in the line of duty in the history of San Mateo County, California. Behind each murder is a family grieving, a department devastated, and a community shaken. As we mourn Officer Chetcuti, and as we share our grief with his family, friends, and the people of Millbrae, I would like to pay tribute to these 22 brave men who preceded him in making the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and security of all of us.

These 22 officers are: Hugo Olazar, California Highway Patrol (1989); Joel M. David, East Palo Alto Police (1988); George L. Garrett, Jr., Redwood City Police (1981); Ralph Percival, California Highway Patrol (1974); Gordon Joinville, San Mateo Police (1968); Richard J. Klass, Daly City Police (1966); Charles Manning, Broadmoor Police (1964); Dale Krings, California Highway Patrol (1962); William E. Pitois, California Highway Patrol (1960); John W. Lyle, Menlo Park Police (1960); Eugene A. Doran, Hillsborough Police (1959); William Moyle, South San Francisco Police (1953); James Dalziel, California Highway Patrol (1945); Forrest Gerken, California Highway Patrol (1944); Herman G. Fleishman, Redwood City Police (1939); Jack Doyle, Daly City Police (1936); Pierre J. Larrecou, Sheriff's Department (1927); Albert D. Coturri, San Bruno Police (1924); Herbert W. Lampkin, Sheriff's Department (1924); Arthur G. Meehan, San Bruno Police (1924); William Phillip McEvoy, Sheriff's Department (1897); and George Washington Tallman, Sheriff's Department (1888).

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the courageous officers of the Millbrae Police Department and all other police officers across America who risk their lives every working day. As we mark National Police Week, let us all take a moment to honor them, and to remember Officer David J.

Chetcuti and his selfless contributions to the people of Millbrae.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL
STEEL

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Steel, the first graduate of New Mexico Agricultural College, now known as New Mexico State University, who will be receiving his honorary degree during tomorrow's pregraduation ceremonies in Las Cruces, New Mexico at the university.

Samuel Steel was completing his last semester toward his Bachelor of Science Degree at New Mexico Agricultural College when he was shot on March 9, 1893. He would have been the first graduate of a New Mexico Territory institution of higher learning had he not been killed at the age of 17.

Steel entered New Mexico Agricultural College at the age of 13. Accounts of his abilities indicated a young man of genius or near-genius aptitude. He entered his senior year in the fall of 1892 as the only member of his class. He was a member of the Columbian Literary Society, which created the *New Mexican Collegian*, the first college newspaper in the territory.

President Hiram Hadley said of Steel: "It is rather more than 40 years since I consecrated my life to the work of education. In that period I have had under my care many brilliant youths, a large number of whom now fill exalted positions in their chosen callings; but taken in all, I have never known the superior, if the equal of Samuel Steel. Personally, I loved him with a paternal affection, and had planned for him labor in which he was sure to distinguish himself."

In the 100th anniversary year of his death, the Sam Steel Society was formed to carry on the scholarly tradition of Steel by inducting new graduates and honored individuals into the Society. Two years later, the frontage road on I-10 along the southern edge of the campus was named Sam Steel Way.

On May 15, 1998, 105 years after he would have been the territory's first graduate of a New Mexico college, an honorary bachelor of science degree in general agriculture is being awarded to the late Samuel Steel. On hand to accept the degree will be three nephews—Captain Gordon Steel of the United States Air Force, Ric Steel of El Paso, and namesake Dr. Samuel Steel of San Francisco.

The diploma reads: "Be it known that for his outstanding scholarship as the first member of a senior class in a college in the New Mexico Territory, which set a standard of excellence for those who followed as students at New Mexico State University, the Regents hereby confer posthumously upon Samuel Steel the honorary degree of bachelor of science in general agriculture with all the honors and distinctions appertaining hereto."